Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

Vol. 12, No. 9 TORONTO, FEBRUARY 26, 1947 $2.00 Per Annum

Add Two First Runs In Toronto

Grierson Refusal Not Explained

Refusal of the USA consulate in Montreal to issue a quota visa to John Grierson is said to have originated in the protests of American business men that the former Canadian film commissioner would provide competition for American film makers.

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Jack Arthur Tops Variety Com'tee

Jack Arthur was appointed chairman of the entertainment committee of Tent 28, Toronto, of the Variety Clubs International by Chief Barker John J. Fitzgibbons at the recent monthly gathering. Arthur was empowered to appoint his own commit-

(Continued on Page 2)

Famous Players Day-And-Date Policy For Top Product

Famous Players will increase, by two, its group of first-run theatres in Toronto, according to John J. Fitzgibbons, president of the company. A radical policy change in Toronto will team the Tivoli with the Eglinton as first-run houses sharing the top pictures with the Imperial and Shea's Theatres. The new policy will be inaugurated on Friday, March 21st, with the presentation in the Tivoli and Eglinton of "The Jolson Story."

At the same time the recently renovated Capitol Theatre in north Toronto will pick up the first run attractions formerly booked into the Eglinton and

(Continued on Page 3)

Biltmore Houses To Nat'l Theatres?

It is heard in the trade that Odeon Theatres, through its recently-formed affiliate, National Theatre Services, will acquire the Biltmore theatres in Oshawa and Kingston.

Among the Biltmore principals are Ben and Mike Okun and Barnett Laxer, while National's top men are Sam Fingold and Ralph Dale.

The theatres are the newest in each city. The 800-seat Kingston house is four years old and the Oshawa one, which seats 700, has been open for five years. They bring the National total to 25 units.

Freedman Again Prexy Of Indies

As expected, Ben Freedman of the Royal Theatre, Long Branch, retained the leadership of the Independent Motion Picture Theatres Association of Ontario. He was returned to office for his third term and his second by acclamation. The en-

(Continued on Page 2)

Director Assigned

William Beaudine has been signed to direct the next Bowery Boys film at Monogram, "Scoop Mahoney."

Rank May Produce Here—Archibald

Native motion picture production in Canada is definitely favored by J. Arthur Rank and, as soon as the rapid expansion in the Rank Organization in England has become stabilized, plans will be formulated for this purpose, according to George Archibald. Archibald is managing director of one of the four producing divisions that make up the Rank outfit and was recently in Toronto on an inspection visit of Canada and the USA.

The most probable procedure will be to send a unit from England in much the same way that

(Continued on Page 8)

Astral In St. John

Astral Films has established an office in Saint John, NB, in the Dyckman Building, Charlotte Street. Norman Smith is in charge.

Pioneers Meeting February 27th

Annual meeting of the Canadian Picture Pioneers will be held on February 27th at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto.

Rank Dickers For Calgary Building

J. Arthur Rank is reported interested in purchasing the Grain Exchange Building, Calgary, which is owned by W. R. Hull, Ltd. It is now occupied by about 60 firms, lawyers, doctors and dentists.

Warner Player and Canadian Execs

Toronto's Lois Maxwell, signed by Warner Brothers in Britain, where she had appeared in a play, stopped off in the Queen City to spend a month with her family before reporting to the Hollywood studios. She is shown with some Warner executives of the Canadian organization. Left to right—A. E. Piggins, district booker; Miss Maxwell; Irvin Coval, Toronto branch manager; and Haskell Masters, Dominion general manager.

Republic Buys Story

Republic has paid $75,000 for Rex Beach's "Don Careless."

Errol Flynn Comedy

Errol Flynn will star in Warners' comedy, "One Last Fling."

Song of Scheherazade Is a MUSICAL MIRACLE in TECHNICOLOR, starring YVONNE DE CARLO, BRIAN DONLEVY and JEAN PIERRE AUMONT and featuring the best-loved music of RIMSKY-KORSAKOFF. Dates now available at EMPIRE-UNIVERSAL FILMS Ltd.

Jack Arthur Tops Variety Com'tee

(Continued from Page 1)

tee. The scene of things this time was the Yellow Room of the King Edward Hotel, Toronto.

It was announced to the membership that letters of patent had been received by the tent, through which it is accorded the privileges open to organizations granted that status by the government. Barker Norman S. Robertson, KC, acted for Tent 28 in seeking the letters of patent.

Inauguration of the Toledo tent has been postponed and the Chief Barker reiterated the invitation of its charter members to Toronto barkers to be present when ceremonies are carried on at a later date.

Discussion dealt with club quarters, Ben Geldsaler having made known developments, as well as the matter of mobile 16 mm. entertainment.

The names of several applicants were announced and these were accepted and will be inducted at the next meeting.

Jesse James Serial

Republic starts soon on the 13-chapter saga, "Jesse James Rides Again."

'Obsession' Bought

Raymond Mark's "Obsession" has been bought by Monogram.

Return Your Ballots

for the

ANNUAL POLL

of the

Canadian Film Weekly

To Determine the

TEN BEST BOXOFFICE FILMS

and the

TEN BEST CANADIAN BOXOFFICE STARS OF 1946

Lakehead Exhibitors Elect New Officers

At the recent annual meeting of the Lakehead Exhibitors Association, comprised of theatre men from the Twin Cities, Fort William and Port Arthur, officers were elected for the year 1947.

Charlie Bahrynowski, manager of the Orpheum Theatre in Fort William, was elected to the post of president; Charlie Dilley of the Colonial Theatre, Port Arthur, was voted into the post of vice-president; and the secretary-treasurer's position was filled by Nestor Novak, manager of the Lake Theatre in Fort William.

Cabinet Will Study Amusement Tax

The suggestion of Mayor Saunders of Toronto that municipalities be permitted to levy an amusement tax in Ontario to cover cost of welfare and hospitalization was promised consideration by the Ontario Cabinet last week following a conference with the Ontario Association of Mayors and Reeves.

Whether it is the intention to have the moviegoer bear the entire brunt or if the amusement tax was to be but one instance of a "luxury" impost has not been stated.

Freedman Again Prexy Of Indies

(Continued from Page 1)

tire executive board of the association, Ontario section of the National Council of Independents, was re-elected at the annual meeting in the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, last week. A luncheon followed the meeting.

Among those who will continue to serve during the new term are Bruce McCleod, Ontario circuit operator, who is vice-president; Harry Lester, Bonita, Toronto, treasurer; and Harry Romberg, Metro, Toronto, secretary.

A considerable amount of time was devoted by those present during the business session to a discussion of more efficient operation. Stringent observance of government regulations and house rules was needed if the full comfort and safety of the patron was to be assured, it was agreed, and a real effort would be made to do away with any laxity which had crept in during the war as a result of general difficulties.

The possibility of raising admission prices in those houses in which this had not been done brought out a number of conflicting opinions. Those who contended that Independents should govern themselves by the policy of chain neighborhood houses won the most support, although it is up to the individual operator to decide for himself. Quite a few of the association's affiliates with prices under 25 cents at the time of decontrol have since raised their fees.

New Title For Film

"Desperate" is the new title for RKO's new production which was named "Flight" while being filmed.

S. B. Allen To Sue Toronto Gardens

Treasurer of Premier Operating Company, Toronto, and a non-practising member of the Toronto Bar, Sol B. Allen has brought a $10,000 damage action against the Maple Leaf Gardens for "assault, false arrest and false imprisonment."

During an intermission on February 1st Allen was forcibly taken to the offices of the Garden and forcibly evicted, he charged, being apparently mistaken for a bookie.

"I feel there has been too much of this invasion of the civil rights of the individual," he told the press in stressing that he was interested in the principle involved.

Allen is also the author of several novels published in the USA.

Grierson Refusal Not Explained

(Continued from Page 1)

However, North Winship, consul-general in that city, offered "no comment" in answer to enquiries and Washington stated that he was "not eligible under existing laws."

Failure to make public reasons for the rejection has led to the opinions that there are political considerations involved, some arising from unauthenticated charges that many of the National Film Board personnel hold radical political beliefs. Grierson, who resigned from the NFB 15 months ago and was succeeded by Ross McLean, was a witness before the spy probe commission, which was at that time examining the actions of his former secretary, a woman whose whereabouts are unknown. Nothing was brought out before the commission which reflected on Grierson personally.

Grierson withdrew from the National Film Board when, with the end of the war, it became plain that higher officials preferred that its films be national rather than international in scope. He then founded International Film Associates, a non-profit organization with offices in London, Ottawa and New York.

It is Grierson's well-known belief in the possibility of international understanding as a means of fighting the evils of poverty, prejudice and war which led him to devote his talents as a producer, writer and lecturer to that end. The Scottish-born pioneer of the documentary field began his work in Britain and since then has accepted duties and responsibilities in behalf of a number of countries.

After service in Hollywood and Australia, Canada sent for him in 1939 to lead film work and his accomplishments in this country, almost barren of film craftsmen, were nothing short of remarkable. Governments of several of the countries occupied by the Nazis during the war availed themselves of Grierson's advice and NFB facilities and the USA State Department invited him to Washington for consultations. Upon his resignation the National Film Board issued a statement of commendation and gratitude.

Representative of Great Britain on the UN film council, Grierson is at present in that country at the invitation of the British Overseas Film Council and will remain for a month. He holds Canadian citizenship.

'The Big Cloak'

Ray Milland will next star in Paramount's "The Big Cloak."

Add Two Toronto First Runs

(Continued from Page 1)

will be teamed with the downtown Victoria Theatre.

The day and date booking of the Tivoli with the Eglinton and the Capitol with the Victoria will give Famous Players six outlets for first-run features — four of them in downtown Toronto.

The shift of population to north Toronto in recent years has been tremendous and there is every indication that it will continue to increase. This area in itself is as large as many Canadian cities and Famous Players executives feel confident that first-run attractions presented in north Toronto simultaneous with their downtown showings will prove popular with residents there.

Another reason for Famous Players' decision to extend its first-run policy is that it will speed the release of topflight attractions so that showings in Toronto will be close to presentations in the larger cities on this continent. Long runs, indicated by such pictures as "Blue Skies," "The Jolson Story," "Sinbad the Sailor," "The Razor's Edge," "Notorious," etc. naturally use up available playing time with the result that big pictures are often backed up.

By establishing identically the same policy in the Eglinton and the Tivoli Theatres as is now in effect in the Imperial and Shea's Theatres, Famous Players will be able to divide its top product between four first-run houses.

With the inauguration of the new policy on Friday, March 21st, the Eglinton and Tivoli admission prices will be on a level with those prevailing in the other first-run houses, Shea's and the Imperial.

"The Jolson Story," one of the great boxoffice attractions of the current season, is expected to run for a number of weeks in its twin theatre engagement and Famous Players announces that "Sinbad the Sailor" will follow "The Jolson Story" in the Tivoli-Eglinton. Negotiations are being completed to follow these attractions with an exceptionally strong lineup of the season's great features.

Day and date booking of big budget films is not new, but this policy usually affects houses in the same area. In Toronto the Victoria and Eglinton, with the exception of British pictures, did not double top product. A day-and-date policy has been in effect in the Vogue and Hastings, Vancouver Odeon houses, but these, while in different zones, are not at two extremes of the city. The Famous Players policy in Toronto seems to be the only case where two theatres, each in end municipal areas, will offer the biggest pictures.

NORMAN SMITH
Appointed Saint John, NB, representative of Astral Films by I. H. Allen.

Theatre Purchased

Ernest W. Kendall has purchased the 250-seat Starland Theatre in Morden, Manitoba, from the Kendall Estate. He has also purchased a site, had the plans drawn up and applied for a permit for a 400-seat theatre in the same community.

"Who's that Dark Stranger? He's the checker that checks the checker! It's a problem!"

Some Notes About This and That

More Talk About Canadian Films

A Good Time and a Good Idea

The staff of the Midtown, Toronto, led by Manager Al Perly, held an at-home the other Sunday evening at which managers and wives of the 20th Century Theatre Managers Association were guests. Screening of a picture was preceded by a quiz conducted by Al, who offered proof of his popularity in the district as prizes—said proof being in the form of boxes of chocolates donated by his sweet-selling neighbors.

There was an abundance of cookies and cakes offered the guests who lingered about the lovely lounge, these having been baked for the occasion by the wives of the managers. They were served by the girls of the Midtown staff, all lovely lookers. I was a guest, as was Len Bishop, president of the Famous Players Managers Association.

Perly had intended to hold a contest to determine the best cakes and cookies but decided that discretion was best. Bishop and I were to have been the judges and we were misled—if not misinformed—into believing that it was to be an exhibit of the products of the Dufferin Paving and Construction Company.

Fortunately for Len, Perly changed his mind. Judging meant biting and Bishop was wearing his extra set of china choppers, the mailman having failed to return his originals from the dentist. (For gosh sakes, we're kidding.)

There ought to be more of this type of evening among managers, for it would give them a chance to spend an evening together and see a picture now and then other than those on their screens.

* * *

From Reliable Sources

Joe Garbarino of the Odeon, Toronto, was in New York seeing his brother Frank, who had an operation on an eye . . . Ed Grant, who used to be with Warners, is now booker at Hanson 16 mm. . . . Hans Tiesler tells me that he expects the new $300,000 Audio studio and lab on Lakeshore Road to be opened on May 1st with appropriate ceremonies and the famed Arthur Gottlieb hospitality. The studio will have, among other things, two projection rooms and one for dubbing. It will also have a steam room. Yes sir, life can be beautiful . . . The name Dominion Productions has caused some confusion with that of a company which made several features hereabouts in other years, Dominion Motion Pictures or something like that . . . There's a well-substantiated story around that some Hollywood lads have been looking at a certain local auditorium, the idea being to shoot some films in it . . . With Bert Brown at the Variety Club the other night was Eric Wilde, now of the CBC, who was musical director of "Meet the Navy."

* * *

Roses of Yesterday

Who remembers that free-lance hauler of worldly goods, the horse-and-wagon expressman? In other days every big city had many like him. A hurry-scurry world outsped him. Nor will he ever catch up.

Crammed with opinions, gossip and folklore, he was always ready for a tall tale. The language he used was as pungent as the smoke and taste of his old pipe. Hearty and human, he loved all jokes and brooked no sass.

A long line of dobbined chariots along the curb indicated the haunt of his hearty breed, a stand licensed by the city. On it stood a sheltering hut, bare but for wall benches, perhaps a telephone, and a tobacco-stained stove. On nippy days he flailed himself in crossed-arm fashion to defeat the frost.

He was a vigorous discussionist. Local, provincial and national politics got a thorough going-over. Reminiscing was the time-killer he loved most. He spoke of the most prominent citizens in the most personal way.

Vanished are these equine oases and their salty occupants. Well, not exactly but just about, for the police department says that there are still a few around. They are the symbols of a more leisurely era, of a day before the mad rush to nowhere, and who will not regret their passing?

Fast Changeovers

Louis Jackson of British National is on this side, which brings up rumors that a deal for the making of pictures in this country is being talked with a domestic group . . . Lou Davidson and Foto-Nite are now on the seventh floor at 21 Dundas Square and Izzy Allen may locate on it . . . Harold Jackson, the popular manager of the Bayview, is ill . . . Audrey Kelly, Loew's pretty candy counter girl, is a part-time model . . . Myer Axler, 20th exec, is in Hollywood seeing some of his family and visiting studio friends of the days when he worked there . . . Charlie Weiner, who used to be with UA in Winnipeg, is now with the Selznick Releasing Organization in Minneapolis . . . You will be glad to hear that our old friend Harry Price is operating an Independent exchange, Favorite Films, in San Francisco and doing very well. He expects to open an office in Los Angeles in a few months.

* * *

Canadian Production

An informative article by Harry Chapin Plummer in the January issue of Canadian Business is entitled "Canada's Film Industry" and offers the prosey but not rosey opinion of 'one of Canada's outstanding film producers" whose views are known "to be backed by inherent understanding and honesty and by a lifetime of experience in wrestling with the problems of the film industry." Concludes he:

"The production and distribution of motion picture entertainment has become such a complex business that it might be likened unto a continuing battle of giants. Whether any Canadian David can devise a sling shot with which to slay the Goliath of motion pictures probably depends on some miraculous aid which has not yet made itself evident to those who closely study the subject. Hard-headed motion picture men feel concern for the inexperienced Davids who would venture out onto the battlefields of the giants."

We've expressed the same opinion in these columns any number of times in the past. Some other statements in the article are open to question, however.

"Long before feature productions were attempted in Canada the filming here of industrials for business firms, like that of documentaries and educationals, was well advanced." Well, yes and no, as a reading of our article on the history of Canadian production in the Christmas issue will reveal. Feature-length production is nothing new on this side of the border, having been much more active in the silent days.

"Every year," says another statement, "$25 million goes out of the Dominion for film rentals." This is an error, I believe, unless rentals for 8 and 16 mm. home and school films run into millions of dollars. Rentals earned by Canadian exchanges in 1945 amounted to $16,292,248 from the exhibition of 35 mm. in theatres. An additional $1,198,016 came to distributors of 16 mm. films exhibited theatrically and otherwise. Nor does this amount leave Canada, for out of it comes the costs of operation of 23 film exchange companies and their total of 88 offices. Between 50 and 60 per cent is estimated as the proportion of rentals paid out as operation costs.

* * *

Sam Vs. John

One of those striking editorials of Sam Harris of The Cinema of London was devoted recently to the British-USA fight for the world's screen time. Behind it all is "Money"—repeated frequently in the editorial and always in boldfaced type.

The editorial, called "Seconds Out," ends with this description of an interesting scene:

"On my right is America's experienced and well-knit heavyweight world champion—**Sam Dollar;**

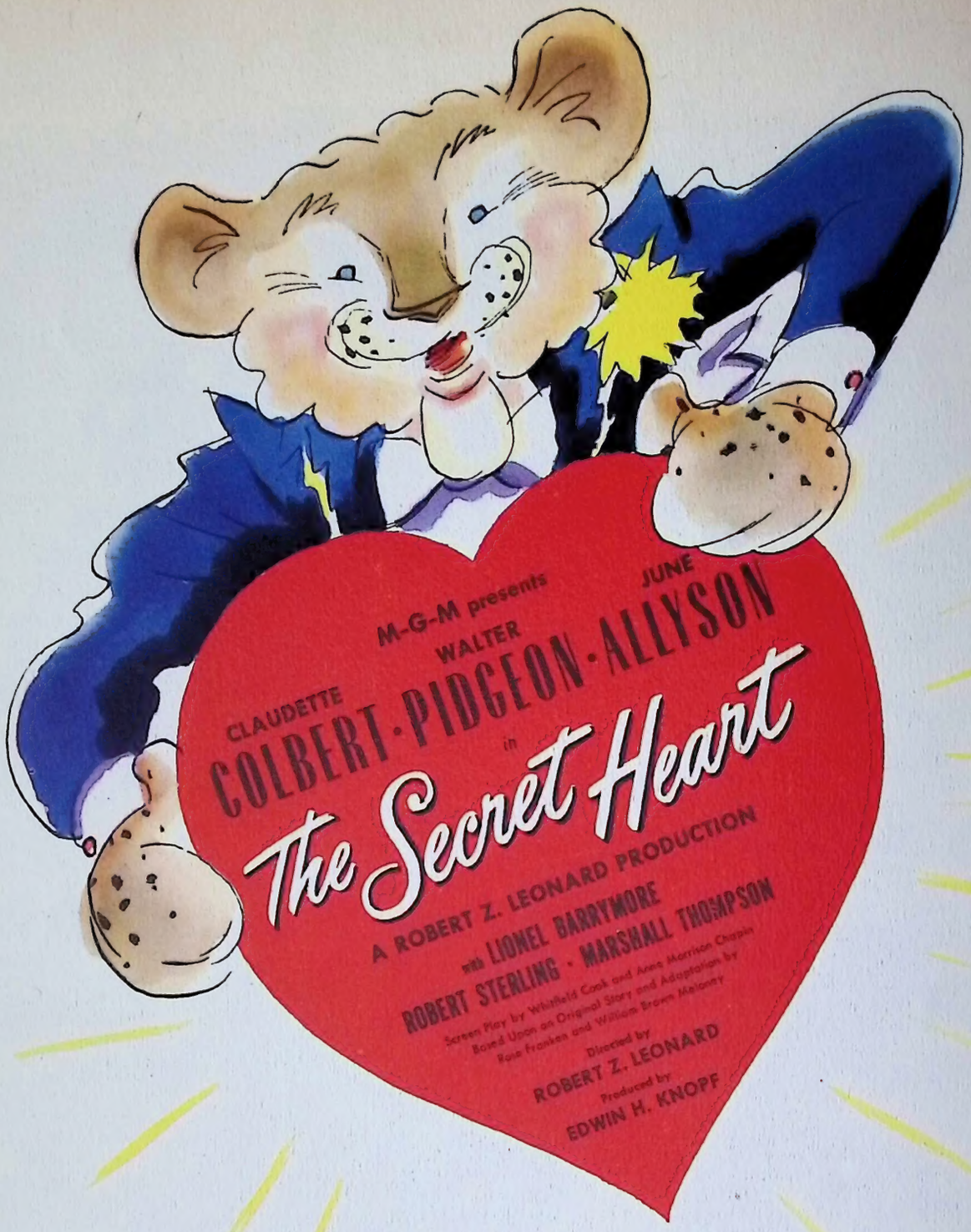
"On my left is England's plucky light-weight champion—the challenger—**Pound Sterling:**

"Seconds out of the ring:

"There goes the gong!"

FAMED CARICATURIST BIRNBAUM GIVES HIS IMPRESSIONS OF HEADLINE STARS IN M-G-M's GREAT ROMANCE "THE SECRET HEART"

LITHO U.S.A.



HAVE A HEART !

Especially one that broke the 27-year Capitol, New York record for a week's business, that set a new Los Angeles opening mark and is bursting with love for box-offices from Coast to Coast.

THE PICK OF THE PICTURES

Canadian Film Weekly

REVIEWS INFORMATION RATINGS

Vol. 12, No. 9 REVIEWS FROM FILM DAILY, NEW YORK $2.00 Per Annum

Margie

with Jeanne Crain, Glenn Langan, Lynn Bari

20th-Fox 94 Mins.

A COLOR DELIGHT, NOSTALGIC TREAT, "MARGIE," THE GIRL THEY THINK ABOUT WILL BE A MENTAL STIMULUS TO AUDIENCES, EXHIBITORS ALIKE.

There's more to "Margie" than immediately meets the eye. If the present season produces more films in the nostalgic line—and this has been the season in which musical nostalgia has come into its own—they will really have to be the cat's pajamas to beat "Margie." For she's the cat's whiskers, as we used to say, and that's just about unbeatable.

The light touch prevails. Looking at the film optically and reclining mentally, it all looks very humorous now, but thoroughly enjoyable.

A new note in comic relief and a rather daring business of comedy will sell this picture all down the line. Back in the dear, dead days when girls wore bloomers, said bloomers were held up via elastic. The elastic had tendencies to break at the most awkward, inopportune moments. "Margie's" does. And Director Henry King has made capital in delineating the hilarious possibilities of snapping elastics where they concern her best, beribboned, embroidered pair. And not once, but quite a few times. Such stuff will rock the house.

Briefly "Margie," plotwise, dissects the flapper age and evolves as an understanding of what made the people tick then. Someday someone will do it about today.

The thick thread of the story involves Miss Crain's heavy crush on Langan, her high school French teacher. Against the interruption of proms and other scholastic divertissements she gets her man as we see in the beginning, and the end, for the whole tale is revealed as she tells her bobby soxer daughter all about it. Darryl Zanuck has given it the production works. Said works have a jeweled movement.

CAST: Jeanne Crain, Glenn Langan, Lynn Bari, Esther Dale, Hobart Cavanaugh, Ann Todd, Hattie McDaniel, Alan Young.

CREDITS: Producer, Walter Morosco; Director, Henry King; Screenplay, by F. Hugh Herbert; Based on stories by Ruth McKenney and Richard Bransten; Cameraman, Charles Clarke.

DIRECTION, Excellent. PHOTOGRAPHY, Excellent.

WB Buys New Story

Warners has purchased Robert Wilder's "Flamingo Road."

Bringing Up Father

wtih Joe Yule, Renie Riano, George McManus, Tim Ryan

Monogram 68 Mins.

LOW, LUSTY COMEDY SHOULD PLEASE THE JIGGS AND MAGGIE CARTOON FANS AND ALSO ATTRACT OTHERS.

This initial offering produced by Barney Gerard and directed by Eddie Cline, should please the Jiggs and Maggie cartoon fans and also attract others. It has low, lusty comedy, and Joe Yule and Renie Riano are excellent choices for the George McManus characters.

Tim Ryan does well as Dinty Moore, while the amiable McManus appears from time to time. One of the best laugh-getters in the cast is Pat Goldin, who never utters a word. A bit of inspired comedy is his work in a scene in which four barroom characters are singing "When the Mush Begins To Rush Down Father's Vest," which was written by Gerard.

Although Yule has become a wealthy contractor and lives on Park Avenue, he likes to visit his old haunts, especially Ryan's saloon on the East Side. However, he is duped into circulating a petition, which he induces his old cronies to sign. The petition serves to close up Ryan's saloon, and Yule loses favor with his old friends. Matters are finally righted, and Yule is restored to his old standing.

In addition to directing and co-authoring the original story with Gerard, Eddie Cline also wrote the song, "Corned Beef and Cabbage," with Edward J. Kay.

CAST: Joe Yule, Renie Riano, George McManus, Tim Ryan, June Harrison, Wallace Chadwell, Tom Kennedy, Laura Treadwell, William Frambes, Pat Goldin.

CREDITS: Producer, Barney Gerard; Director, Eddie Cline; Authors, Gerard and Cline; Based on comic strip by George McManus; Screenplay, Jerry Warner; Cameraman, L. W. O'Connell.

DIRECTION, Good. PHOTOGRAPHY Good.

Akim Tamiroff Signs

Akim Tamiroff and Charles Cane were signed yesterday for important roles in "Three Were Thoroughbreds," Columbia's Technicolor drama of the old West.

The Verdict

with Peter Lorre, Sydney Greenstreet

Warners 86 Mins.

INTERESTING MYSTERY-DRAMA WITH POINTED-UP SUSPENSE SHOULD STAND UP WELL BY ITSELF.

Peter Lorre's hands are clean of all blood, murder and mayhem this time. True, he skulks about the premises and is made the butt of Scotland Yard's researches into murder but he comes out clean and alive at the end. He plays a boozy artist, a frequenter of music halls, a pal of wenches, and afficionado of the bottle. He's a gay bird—in a word.

The action mostly takes place on a street in Victorian London. Greenstreet lives on one side. He is writing his memoirs. Seems he convicted and hung an innocent man. His friends are Lorre, Paul Cavanagh, a politician; Morton Lowry, a playboy. Lowry is done in one night. Greenstreet, ousted from the force, is called in to aid his successor, George Coulouris. He does this hesitatingly. The crime seems to be of the perfect variety. Various people involved are confronted but they have foolproof alibis.

Coulouris relentlessly attacks the case. Greenstreet, when Cavanagh is arrested and tried for the crime on circumstantial evidence, goes to the continent to seek a woman who can furnish evidence of innocence. He returns. She is dead. A few hours before the hour of execution the real story of the crime comes out.

The responsible party states: "There will be many to say that I have done deeds of calculated and unfathomable villainy. Whether I have or have not, will probably remain an open verdict."

It's a good show.

CAST: Peter Lorre, Sydney Greenstreet, Joan Lorring, George Coulouris, Paul Cavanagh, Rosalind Ivan, Arthur Shields, Morton Lowry, Holmes Herbert.

CREDITS: Producer, William Jacobs; Director, Don Siegel; Screenplay by Peter Milne from a novel by Israel Zangwill; Cameraman, Ernest Haller.

DIRECTION, Good. PHOTOGRAPHY, Fine.

'Come And Get Me'

Republic has purchased Milton Gunzberg's "Come and Get Me."

The Strange Woman

with Hedy Lamarr, George Sanders, Louis Hayward

UA 100 Mins.

BEN AMES WILLIAMS' NOVEL APTLY TRANSLATED TO SCREEN TERMS, SHOULD PROVE AN ALL-ROUND SATISFIER.

This is the saga of Jenny Hagen, very well played by Hedy Lamarr, who made her mind up when she was very young that things—men, property and esteem in the community—were to come to her by virtue of the fact that she was a woman, and a very beautiful woman too.

Thematically it concerns a woman who rose from sordid surroundings in the Bangor, Me., of Circa 1820 to become a lustful, scheming wench, withal a charitable figure beloved by the poor people of the town. Haphazard vicissitudes of passion and sin, in her brief moment of cutting a remembered swath in the life of the community, lead ultimately to a tragic end.

Yet, the spectator is aware of the powerful undercurrent of the story and its deviations from the norm. There is an air of morbid consequence about the main character and the men she attracts, the man she marries and how she causes his young son, Louis Hayward, to love her to his own and his father's doom. Then there is another man, George Sanders, whom she steals from Hillary Brooke, later marries and in a fit of high emotional fury tries to injure but only causes her own death.

The canvas of early Maine and its primitive, frontier aspect, is ably mounted with intelligent production values and creditable attention to details. The spirit and air of the place is caught at the onset and maintained.

Edgar Ullmer's direction shows Miss Lamarr to fine advantage and her beauty is further enhanced by a sincere performance that keeps the unfoldment of the story to the fore. All this against a picturesque and at times exciting and spectacular background.

CAST: Hedy Lamarr, George Sanders, Louis Hayward, Gene Lockhart, Hillary Brooke, June Storey, Rhys Williams, Moroni Olsen, Ian Keith, Jessie Arnold, Alan Napier.

CREDITS: Producer, Jack Chertok; Director, Edgar Ullmer; Screenplay by Herb Meadow, based on the novel by Ben Ames Williams; Cameraman, Lucien Andriot.

DIRECTION, Excellent. PHOTOGRAPHY, Very good.

Canadian Film Weekly

Vol 12, No. 9 Feb. 26, 1947

HYE BOSSIN, Managing Editor

Address all communications—The Managing Editor, Canadian Film Weekly, 25 Dundas Square, Toronto, Canada.

Published by Film Publications of Canada, Ltd., 25 Dundas Square, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Phone ADelaide 4317. Price 5 cents each or $2.00 per year.

Entered as Second Class Matter.

JOSEPH E. LEBLANC

Owner of the Capitol Theatre in Shediac, NB, who was recently elected mayor of that community by acclamation.

New NFB Release Is 'River Watch'

Latest Canada Carries On release of the National Film Board is "River Watch." Dealing with the work of the men who keep the vital shipping lane of the lower St. Lawrence River open and safe for navigation, the short was filmed in storms and blizzards during sub-zero temperatures and gives a good idea of the dangerous and difficult work that these courageous men carry out.

ECHOES and REFLECTIONS

Improved Theatres

From the Langley (BC) Advance

A new theatre was opened on the Island recently, which, according to the Comox District Free Press, has all the modern accessories for entertainment, including an isolated room where mothers can take their babies and attend to their natural requirements while still enjoying the picture from the main screen. Truly a most worthy addition to the entertainment world.

Now if another room could be built on the other side of theatres, isolated and soundproof for the general nuisances, it would really improve movie entertainment. This room, of course, would be reserved for the sweet young thing who giggles and drowns out the highlights of screen conversation. Then there is the chap who has read "the book" and insists on telling his girl friend what is coming next in a voice audible all over the theatre. There are still the older "girls" who just hate to admit their age by their silvery hair and so they keep their hats on; oh yes, and the young couple who sit so lovingly close that the person sitting behind develops a sore neck in an effort to make it stretch around the lovers.

Yes, indeed, this will need to be a large one because there will be many patrons for this "nuisance" room, only a few of the types are listed above. Then there might be a gallery for children with a contraption that pulls the curtains down on scenes for "adults only". A Mickey Mouse picture could be flashed on for the kids and they would just love it. It would be quite a simple matter to have a control switch on the sound instrument to cut out the swear words from the children's gallery. Yes, there is a wonderful future for theatre entertainment.

Fifi D'Orsay To Wed

Fifi D'Orsay, the French-Canadian comedienne who was tops during the early days of talking pictures, is making plans for her marriage to Peter La Ricos shortly.

Miss D'Orsay is attempting a screen comeback with the new Monogram high-budget distribution company, Allied Artists, and met the 33-year-old actor on a plane trip during the war.

Sam Goldwyn Forms Exhibition Firm

Sam Goldwyn, Independent who produces for RKO release, has formed Samuel Goldwyn Pictures, Incorporated, as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Samuel Goldwyn Productions, Incorporated, to enter the exhibition field. His move is the first by an Independent to follow in the wake of the New York equity decree recently handed down by the statutory court. Surmises are that many more will follow his lead.

Under the decree ruling of the courts, it is pointed out, a national exhibition corporation can be formed which, having been assigned the rights to a picture, can lease theatres to show the film on a rental basis at 30 per cent of the gross or on a flat per day rental.

To Produce In Britain

Allied Artists, Monogram's high-budget subsidiary, has entered into a deal with Pathe, distributors of Monogram product in the British Isles, to produce three films annually in England. Pictures will each be budgeted at a million dollars or over. Hollywood players will be included in the casts.

Top Monogram executives will visit England in April.

Actor Sidney Toler Dies In Hollywood

Sidney Toler, veteran stage and screen actor, passed away recently in Hollywood after a seven-months' illness. In his 59th year, Toler was for the last while identified with the character of Charlie Chan, having portrayed the famed Chinese detective in numerous films.

Born in Warrensburg, Missouri, Toler was the son of Colonel H. G. Toler, breeder of horses, and left the University of Kansas to go into the legitimate theatre. He appeared in many stage plays and even wrote one, "Belle of Richmond." In 1929 he was cast in MGM's film "Madame X," and from then until the time of his death portrayed innumerable character parts in motion pictures.

George Archibald Visits Toronto

(Continued from Page 1)

personnel was sent to Australia to make "The Overlanders." Michael Powell, who has many times expressed his delight in Canadian production possibilities, is the likely choice to head such a contingent. The long-range view of this plan is to build a worthwhile, permanent local production industry, using native technicians and talent, and eventually have a regular number of films that were made here each year added to the Rank schedule which now totals about 40 feature motion pictures per annum.

Archibald heads Independent Producers, Limited, which is comprised of Archers, Cineguild, Individual Pictures and Wessex Productions. A completely democratic outfit, each producer has unrestricted freedom to pick his own stories, have his own scenarios written, choose his own casts and directors and edit and score his own pictures. The number of films turned out by Independent has been stepped up from three to six to the present quota of eight per year. All technicians are drawn from a central pool with the hiring or firing of any personnel requiring the unanimous approval of all four.

Archibald's position is mostly in an advisory capacity, having had over 30 years' experience in the industry. He also arranges for studio and personnel commitments, commercial distribution and all legal and administrative questions. The setup is designed to free the members of all problems except creative ones.

Commenting on the stiffening of the British quota regulations in regard to screen time for American films, which is likely to occur when the present law expires in March, 1948, Archibald said that he thought there would be a gradual decrease in the alloted time for such films over a period of a few years and that the total would not be very great. He did not think that it would adversely affect the time gained by British films on USA screens.

"British films have come up enormously," he stated, "and in England are at present outdrawing comparable American films." He also added that British films are playing in many more situations in USA and Canada than they ever have before, but not as many as they deserve and should get. In comparison he showed that the "Seventh Veil," the British production which has been leading in the number of engagements, has only had 50 per cent of the bookings that an equivalent Hollywood picture would normally get.

RKO's 'It's a Wonderful Life' Is A Superior Motion Picture

FRANK CAPRA'S initial effort on his return from war service is RKO's "It's a Wonderful Life," the story of a suicide-minded young man from a small town, which stars James Stewart, in his first film since his discharge, and Donna Reed. A really powerful supporting cast combined with the stars to produce this topnotch picture which is proving a boxoffice sensation.

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